US Army Corps of Engineers®
Memphis District

News Release

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Corps of Engineers gears-up for predicted Mississippi River flooding

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Jan. 7, 2005 – The Memphis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, initiated a Phase I floodfight at 7 a.m. today due to high Mississippi River stages with higher stages forecasted. The area of flooding is located in the northern portion of the Memphis District.

The lands affected by the current high water are located along the Mississippi River on the west bank Scott City, Missouri, to the Arkansas-Missouri state line and on the east bank from Cairo, Illinois.

Phase I floodfight activities begin when the river gage at Cairo, Ill., approaches approximately 49.0 feet or the Cape Girardeau, Mo., gage reaches 38.0 feet. The river stage at Cairo was 40.9 feet at 6 p.m., with a crest of 51.0 expected on Tuesday, Jan. 11. The river stage at Cape Girardeau was 32.4 at 6 p.m., with a crest of 42.5 feet expected on Sunday, Jan. 10.

During Phase I floodfight activities, Corps of Engineers personnel deploy to the field and monitor all federal flood control works including levees, flood walls and pumping stations.

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Corps personnel will continue to monitor rainfall in the Missouri, upper Mississippi and Ohio river basins, and National Weather Service forecasts to determine if Phase II floodfight activation is required.

The Corps' Division headquarters in Vicksburg, Miss, coordinates all floodfight activities in the Lower Mississippi Valley. The Corps' Emergency Operations Center in Memphis is directing floodfight activities in conjunction with the affected states, levee districts and other local interest groups.

The Federal flood protection works in the Lower Mississippi Valley protect many thousands of homes, millions of lives and vast tracts of fertile cropland. The Memphis District's flood control system has prevented more than $4.3 billion in flood damages and protected more than five million acres of cropland in the last decade alone.

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